

A PSYCHOANALYSIS ON HELENA DE NARBON'S MOTIVES AS SEEN IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

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Abstract:

This study aims to describe the essential roles of motives as human's drive in reaching one's goals and purposes in life. The analysis on motives of the female character, Helena de Narbon, was portrayed psychologically in two perspectives namely the psychological factors that have become the background of Helena de Narbon's insistence to get married with Bertram and the point of view from Helena de Narbon in viewing the feminine roles at that age that she has from her family values. The strength of motivational drive in Helena de Narbon's mental state has led her to face the challenges in making decision about her choice on a husband, a rarely condition that commonly accepted in that age. One of the challenges has been represented by the existence of the masculine superior power that commonly occurred in that age. The complex and hierarchical socio cultural situation has delivered another psychological oppression to Helena as a young orphan woman whose profession as a female physician. Again, through the motives, Helena was driven in making adjustment of her behavior and control to her emotions achieving her purposes and goals in marrying Bertram and increasing her social status as a noblewoman.

Key Words: *Psychoanalysis, motive, motivational drive, masculine, feminine*
Helena de Narbon, a female

Introduction

All's Well that Ends Well has been one of William Shakespeare's plays which portrayed the complexities on relationship between a female character, Helena de Narbon and a male character, Bertram, the young Count of Rousillon. The emotional relationships such as romance between two different sexes have been portrayed as bitter sweet love comedies. This play is considered as a play of problem in the sense the characters of the play has been disturbed by the problem of life (Alexander, 2000:81).

character whose strong will in changing her social status was challenged to bet her professional capability as a female physician with her decision in choosing Bertram, a young Count with immature personality as her husband. The roles of motives in Helena's life have strong drive in controlling her behavior and attitude to make adjustments for achieving her goals and purposes. Helena de Narbon whose physical appearance as a gentle and feminine woman made the other people assume her as a weak orphan young woman but her motive has triggered some phenomenal actions to encounter some challenging situation in her life. Since she

has purpose in getting married with a popular young nobleman, Bertram, the young Count of Rousillon, she has struggled in adjusting her emotions and attitudes to get the other people's sympathy for giving her some supports to win the heart of Countess of Rousillon, the mother of Bertram. Having some charms and capabilities blended in her, Helena de Narbon was considered as one of interesting female character in Shakespeare's plays (Blamires, 2003:59)

According to Freud (Habib, 2005:576), individual has instinct to fulfill her need on pleasure. There are differences from the seeking pleasures between children and adults wherein adults seek for their pleasure by doing fantasies. The pleasure in adults is aroused by her/his sexuality which become one's intimate possession. This fantasy could be manifested differently in motives from an individual. Since losing her father, Gerard de Narbon because of his death, Helena de Narbon should survive her life as a young orphan woman. The contradictive situation of Bertram as a young Count of Rousillon whose love from his friends, his mother and some girls who admire him has brought jealousy to Helena and desire to possess a good life as a member of noble family. Helena realized that her desire could be manifested by one way that she accomplished the marriage with a nobleman as solution.

Motive, itself is the basic ways from individual to react physically and psychologically while she/he is giving reaction of some particular circumstances. The reaction could be expressed individually into different behavior. Motive is also closely linked to the internal drive or basic needs which dealing with individual's cerebral system. There are

many sources of motives in individual's life that are affected by both internal and external environment such as sex, love, affection, achievement, approval of our fellows and so on. Individual decides to make some actions in adjusting his/her condition with the environment where he/she is living (Mahon, 1982: 147-8). Individual learns from his/her environment and she/he would be conditioned in his/her approach towards it.

Helena de Narbon was a smart woman who understood her capability as the daughter of great physician, Gerard de Narbon challenging herself in offering her prescription to cure the disease of Bertram's father, King of Rousillon. She decided to negotiate with the Countess of Rousillon in order to deal with her implicit proposal to the Countess' son, Bertram as the compensation. She tried to secure her future life by marrying a son of noble family financially and socially.

The effort of Helena de Narbon in getting married with Bertram was encountered with the refusal of Bertram as the representation of male superiority in Shakespeare's plays. Bertram's refusal delivered some oppression on Helena de Narbon by refusing her as his sexual consumption although he agreed to wed her as his wife. 'The bed-trick' has been presented by Shakespeare in showing the structures and power of masculinity. Based on feminist theory, women are also formed by other structures that build on economic subjection and psychic repression, and the structures tended to operate as oppression because of the social and psychic of gender. When the women tried to struggle in placing themselves as the cultural subject, they are able to value themselves (Wolfreys, 2001:65).

Research Method

As the data in the research that is used isn't in form of numbers but in form of word – sentence which is according to Sunarto (1997: 41) is a characteristic of non numerical research object and the result data is descriptive, i.e. in form of written word – sentence and action or behaviour and interaction between the main female character and other characters, thus the research uses qualitative approach. The qualitative approach in this study gives description about facts and connections between studied phenomenon in the literary works accurately and systematically.

The research uses two approaches which are feminism and psychoanalysis. Feminism approach is used because in the research feminism theory and feminist literary criticism are included. This approach is considered suitable based on two reasons. First, the research object is feminism aspects. Second, the main focus of this research is about the female character that brings feminism aspiration. At the same time the researcher also used psychoanalysis study. It is due to one of the aims of this study, which is to find out the importance of motives in individual's life that enhance some adjusted behaviour in reaching one's goals and purposes.

Discussions

All's Well That Ends Well is a play which consists of spiritual and psychological aspects that Shakespeare played to expose all dimensions in human's life mainly about the essential and unexplored emotion which we know as love. This emotion, love, is considered as essential emotion in individual's life although it has been thought as doubtful and unexplored emotion that God gives as

the mysterious blessed gift to human on this planet.

The psychologists explain that love appears in some certain stages into individual's life. Love between a man and a woman is delivered for the first time by feeling of attractiveness on physical appearances. The earlier stage of love is liking in which situation an individual decides to like his/her opposite sex because of qualities of some physical attractiveness. Then, other factors for instance personality factors, intelligence and social skills would be a secondary consideration for appraising individual's values. It can be seen through Helena's speaking in soliloquy when she tried to express what she had on her mind about her admiration on Bertram's physical attractiveness (Act I, Scene I, Line 94-96): 'Twas pretty, though a plague/ To see him every hour, to sit and draw/ His arched brows, his hawking eyes, his curls...'

Since feminists focused on the oppression of the female character because of the domination of the male character, Helena confessed that Bertram was born on this earth with more superiorities he had than she did as Helena described Bertram as 'a bright particular star' (Act I, Scene I, Line 88): 'That I should love a bright particular star...' and (Act I, Scene 2, Line 90): 'In his bright radiance and collateral light.'

The comment of Bertram that it is considered cynical to Helena has been used to show his superior dominance on Helena (Act I, Scene 1, Lines 76-77). But, Helena has accepted the regression that existed from Bertram's oppression as the way of struggle her position to be equally accepted (Act I, Scene 1, Lines 93-5). Helena who brought up in equally gendered daughter of a physician and

accustomed to take some responsibilities in giving medical treatments to her patients has decided to determine her proposal to Bertram as politically tricks as she negotiated her capability to cure the King's disease (Act I, Scene I, Lines 190-210).

The beautiful but smart struggle is also showed in Helena's efforts keeping his husband's denial on by defending her marriage with another political trick. She persuaded successfully Diana, Bertram's mistress, to give up and admit her position as a legal wife of Bertram (Act 4, Scene 4, Lines 16-30).

Conclusion

In this play, Shakespeare has spoken about the physical appearances could not equally judged with mental strength in determining the quality values of an individual. Feminist character was presented by Helena de Narbon as not merely a means wherein Shakespeare tried to speak of the equality of both sexes. Helena was a weak character in her physical appearance but she had strong will and focused her goals by making some adjustments in her attitudes that some of them could be perceived as smart and confident strategies from a young woman.

There are some important factors that we could analyze how motives have essential roles in Helena's behaviour to achieve her target. First, she has learned from her environment, mainly in her family about the equally gendered paradigms between a man and a woman in making decision on some important cases in her life for instance the decision in choosing a husband in her life. Second, Helena has learned from her social environment how to behave as a good

young woman by negotiating some important deals with the noble family members in order to achieve her goals. Her motives has been internal factors and stronger stimulus in driving her speech to the other and her behaviour to direct the noble family members of Rousillon had positive impressions about her.

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